FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE GROUND SCAR SOUTH OF BUILDING 3134, PARCEL 153(7) FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

JUNE 2001

U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES DECISION DOCUMENT

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Ground Scar South of Building 3134, Parcel 153(7), at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of the parcel at FTMC is shown on Figure 1. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT consists of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) completed at the Ground Scar South of Building 3134, Parcel 153(7), the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Ground Scar South of Building 3134, Parcel 153(7). A list of background documents for Parcel 153(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 153(7) is available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING SITE

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510, established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA) (Public Law 102-426) requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process.

SITE BACKGROUND

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC consists of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which occupies 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 153(7)

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, ***Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama***, prepared for U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, January.

IT Corporation (IT), 2001, ***Final Site Investigation Report, Ground Scar South of Building 3134, Parcel 153(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***, June.

IT Corporation (IT), 2000, ***Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***, July.

QST Environmental, Inc. (QST), 1998, ***Final Site Investigation Work Plan, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama,*** March.

Science Applications International Corporation, 1998, ***Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama,*** July.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2000, ***Region 9 Preliminary Remediation Goals,*** November.

Forest. Pelham Range, which occupies 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Ground Scar South of Building 3134, Parcel 153(7), is located in the west-central portion of the FTMC Main Post, in a wooded area approximately 150 feet south of Building 3134 (Figure 1). The scar was identified on aerial photographs taken in 1964 (ESE, 1998). The ground scar is a triangular area measuring approximately 160 feet (east-west) by 120 feet (north-south). No other information was available regarding activities at this site (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998).

Site elevation is approximately 800 feet above mean sea level. An intermittent stream is located east of the site and flows to the northeast (Figure 1).

SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the environmental baseline survey (ESE, 1998) was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using DOD guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories, or a non-CERCLA qualifier designation, as appropriate. The seven CERFA categories include CERFA Uncontaminated Parcels (Categories 1 and 2), CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. The Ground Scar South of Building 3134, Parcel 153(7), was categorized as a CERFA Category 7 parcel in the environmental baseline survey. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or that require further evaluation (ESE, 1998).

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 153(7) is recategorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response.

SITE INVESTIGATION

IT Corporation (IT) completed an SI at the Ground Scar South of Building 3134, Parcel 153(7), to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT, 2001). As part of the SI, IT incorporated data

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES FOR FORT McCLELLAN

Anniston Calhoun County Public Library
Reference Section
Anniston, Alabama 36201
Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison
Telephone: (256) 237-8501
Fax: (256) 238-0474
Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Houston Cole Library
9th Floor
Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Road
Jacksonville, Alabama 36265
Point of Contact: Ms. Rita Smith (256) 782-5249
Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

previously collected at the site by QST Environmental, Inc. (QST).

IT and QST collected a total of six surface soil samples, four subsurface soil samples, four groundwater samples, one surface water sample, and two sediment samples during the SI at the site. Groundwater samples were collected from one permanent monitoring well installed by IT and from three temporary wells installed by QST. Target analyses for the samples included metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), pesticides/polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), nitroexplosive compounds, and total organic carbon. In addition, one of the sediment samples was analyzed for grain size.

To evaluate whether detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC (IT, 2000). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with SIs being performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metals concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to media-specific background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998).

The potential impact to human receptors is expected to be minimal. Although the site is projected for mixed business reuse, the soils and groundwater data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted land reuse. In soils, the metals that exceeded residential human health SSSLs were below their respective background concentrations or within the range of background values and, thus, do not pose an unacceptable risk to future human

receptors. Three polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) compounds (benzo[a]anthracene, benzo[a]pyrene, and benzo[b]fluoranthene) were detected in one surface soil sample at concentrations (1.08 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg] to 1.1 mg/kg) exceeding SSSLs. Based on the low concentrations and limited spatial distribution at the site, the PAH compounds are not expected to pose a threat to human health. VOC concentrations in soils were below SSSLs. Nitroexplosive compounds, pesticides, and PCBs were not detected in samples collected at the site.

In groundwater, several metals were detected in three samples at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and background concentrations. However, these groundwater samples were collected from small-diameter direct-push temporary wells. It is likely that these groundwater samples had high turbidity at the time of sample collection that caused the elevated metals concentrations. VOC and SVOC concentrations in groundwater were below SSSLs. The VOC methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) was detected in one groundwater sample at a concentration of 0.005 milligrams per liter (mg/L). An SSSL or EPA drinking water standard for MTBE does not exist; however, the MTBE concentration was below the EPA Region 9 Preliminary Remediation Goal for MTBE in tap water (0.02 mg/L) (EPA, 2000).

Three metals (copper, iron, and nickel) were detected in a limited number of surface soil and sediment samples at concentrations exceeding ESVs and background concentrations. Two VOCs (tetrachloroethene and trichloroethene) were detected in surface soils at concentrations (0.0014 to 0.033 mg/kg) exceeding ESVs. In addition, six PAH compounds (up to 2.54 mg/kg) exceeded ESVs in one surface soil sample. Based on the low levels and limited distribution of chemical constituents detected, the potential threat to ecological receptors is expected to be low.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Ground Scar South of Building 3134, Parcel 153(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 153(7). No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health or the environment at this site. The metals and chemical compounds detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted land reuse. Furthermore, Parcel 153(7) is recategorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Ground Scar South of Building 3134, Parcel 153(3) (formerly Parcel 153[7]).

The following costs are associated with implementing the no-action alternative:

Capital Cost:	$0
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs:	$0
Present Worth Cost:	$0
Months to Implement:	None
Remedial Duration:	None.

DECLARATION

Remedial action is unnecessary at the Ground Scar South of Building 3134, Parcel 153(3) (formerly Parcel 153[7]). The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with relevant federal and state regulations, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the parcel, or that require land-use control restrictions. The site is released for unrestricted land reuse. Parcel 153(7) is recategorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action at the Ground Scar South of Building 3134, Parcel 153(3) (formerly Parcel 153[7]).

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

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ACRONYMS

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
IT	IT Corporation
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
mg/L	milligrams per liter
MTBE	methyl tertiary butyl ether
PAH	polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
QST	QST Environmental, Inc.
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

Prepared under direction of:

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